



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 7, 2004

MEDIA CONTACT: Arian Collins

(619) 236-5848

IT'S ALIVE! at Your Library During Teen Read Week 2004, Oct. 17-23

SAN DIEGO – What's big and read and is for 12-18 year olds? It's the intersection of horror, suspense, black and white movies from the '50s, and even modern concepts like genetic engineering. It's programming and reading and ways to increase adolescent literacy all rolled up into one week-long celebration known as Teen Read Week. Teens will be reading for the fun of it as the City of San Diego Public Library celebrates Teen Read Week, Oct. 17-23. They join hundreds of other libraries, schools and bookstores who are encouraging teens to celebrate this year's theme, "IT'S ALIVE! @ your library."

Literacy is a topic of national concern, and falling test scores and lower graduation rates among teens today are still a serious issue. However, according to the National Education Association Web site, a 2001 poll conducted by Peter D. Hart & Associates indicates that "Teenagers, age 12 to 18, rated reading, math, and writing as the first, second, and third most important things people need to learn to be successful in life. Young people put this to practice, demonstrating a healthy amount of reading." Not only do they read, but the poll also indicates that they describe the experience as "relaxing ... rewarding ... stimulating."

A reading habit increases reading proficiency. One of the most important ways teens acquire the habit is by watching adults they respect. Being around adults with a reading habit can counteract the latest statistics from the Nation's Report Card (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>), that indicate that in homes across America the number of different types of reading materials has decreased, and a smaller percentage of seventeen-year-olds saw adults reading in their homes.

"There are lots of ways for teens and their librarians to discover the great stories and other resources available at all libraries," said City Library Director Anna Tatár. "We welcome and encourage teens to visit their local library and take advantage all that we have to offer."

A complete list of teen activities and other events and programs at the San Diego Public Library is available on the Web at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>.

Teen Read Week is the national adolescent literacy initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association.

#

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future